

Sang Yup LEE  
Appln. No. 10/662,517  
Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.116

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A process for preparing a serine-rich protein comprising the steps of culturing a bacterium containing a cysteine synthase *cysK* (*cysK*) gene and a gene encoding the serine-rich protein in a culture medium thereby producing the serine-rich protein; and harvesting the serine-rich protein, wherein said bacterium is transformed with a vector containing the *cysK* gene and a vector containing the gene encoding the serine-rich protein.
  
2. (currently amended): A process for preparing a serine-rich protein comprising the steps of culturing a bacterium containing a cysteine synthase *cysK* (*cysK*) gene and a gene encoding the serine-rich protein in a culture medium thereby producing the serine-rich protein; and harvesting the serine-rich protein, wherein said bacterium is transformed with a vector containing both the *cysK* gene and the gene encoding the serine-rich protein.
  
3. (canceled).
  
4. (original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.

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5. (canceled).

6. (previously presented): The process according to claim 1, wherein the serine-rich protein is leptin or IL-12p40(interleukin 12  $\beta$  chain).

7. (previously presented): A recombinant vector comprising both a *cysK* gene and a gene encoding a serine-rich protein.

8. (original): A bacterium transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 7.

9. (previously presented): A bacterium transformed with a vector containing a *cysK* gene and a vector containing a gene encoding a serine-rich protein.

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein the *cysK* gene is derived from *E. coli*.

Claims 12 - 14. (canceled).

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15. (previously presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein the serine-rich protein is leptin or IL-12p40 (interleukin 12 $\beta$  chain).

16. (previously presented): The bacterium according to claim 9, wherein the vector containing the *cysK* gene is plasmid pAC104CysK as shown Fig. 2 and the vector containing the gene encoding the serine-rich protein is plasmid pEDIL-12p40 as shown in Fig. 3.